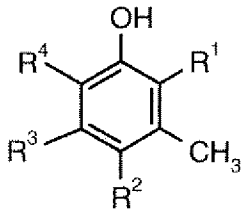
Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application, please amend the claims as follows:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A process for hydrodehalogenating halogenated meta-cresols of ~~the~~ formula (I)



(I)

in which the R^1 to R^4 radicals are each independently hydrogen or halogen, but at least one of these radicals is halogen, comprising:

a) preparing a catalyst by applying one or more salts of palladium and/or platinum and optionally copper salts to an aluminum oxide or titanium oxide support material; and

~~characterized in that~~ b) contacting the halogenated meta-cresols of ~~the~~ formula (I) with the catalyst ~~are contacted with a catalyst which has been prepared by applying one or more salts of palladium and/or platinum and optionally copper salts to an aluminum oxide or titanium oxide support material,~~ together with hydrogen, at temperatures between 100 and 250°C.

2. (Currently Amended) The process ~~as claimed in~~according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that halogenated meta-cresols of the formula (I) in which~~wherein at least two of the R^1 to R^4 radicals are each chlorine ~~are used~~.

3. (Currently Amended) The process ~~as claimed in at least one of~~according to claim[[s]]

1 ~~and 2~~, ~~characterized in that it~~ wherein the step of contacting is performed at a temperature of 150 to 250°C.

4. (Currently Amended) The process ~~as claimed in at least one of~~according to claim[[s]] 1 ~~to 3~~, ~~characterized in that~~wherein from 0.5 to 50 mol of hydrogen ~~are~~ is used per mole of halogen in the halogenated meta-cresol of formula (I)~~used~~.

5. (Currently Amended) The process ~~as claimed in at least one of~~ according to claim[[s]] 1 ~~to 4~~, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the hydrogen is ~~used in~~ in the form of a mixture with an inert gas.

6. (Currently Amended) The process ~~as claimed in at least one of~~according to claim[[s]] 1 ~~to 5~~, ~~characterized in that~~wherein the preparation of the catalyst ~~has been prepared by~~comprises applying $PdCl_2$, $PtCl_2$ and/or $PtCl_4$ to an aluminum oxide or titanium dioxide support material.

7. (Currently Amended) The process ~~as claimed in at least one of~~ according to claim[[s]] ~~1 to~~ 6, wherein the preparation of the catalyst ~~characterized in that the catalyst has been prepared~~ by applying $PdCl_2$, $PtCl_2$ and/or $PtCl_4$ to an aluminum oxide or titanium dioxide support material ~~and additionally~~ further comprises applying CuCl or $CuCl_2$ to the support material.

8. (Currently Amended) The process ~~as claimed in at least one of~~according to claim[[s]] 1 ~~to 7~~, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ the catalyst ~~has been~~is prepared by applying a total amount of from 0.5 to 100 g of one or more salts of palladium and/or platinum and optionally copper salts to one liter of aluminum oxide or titanium oxide support material.

9. (Currently Amended) The process ~~as claimed in at least one of~~according to claim[[s]] 1 ~~to 8~~, characterized in that ~~it~~ step b) is performed at pressures in the range from 1 to 5 bar and in the gas phase.

10. (Currently Amended) The process ~~as claimed in at least one of~~according to claim[[s]] 1 ~~to 9~~, further comprising subsequent to steps a) and b):

c) collecting a ~~characterized in that the~~ product mixture of steps b) and ~~present after the hydrodehalogenation reaction is subsequently sent to a~~providing the same for a subsequent chlorination reaction.